

Madam Chairs and members of the committee. My name is Malcolm Gorin. I am a recently retired Ophthalmologist. I'm writing this letter in support of House Bill #6645, "An act concerning compassionate aid in dying for the terminally ill"

As a physician, even though my specialty of Ophthalmology rarely deals with the terminally ill, I am very much aware of our inability in many cases to alleviate pain and maintain dignity for those people. Allowing physicians to prescribe medication that a patient may or may not choose to use to hasten the end of his life, with safeguards to prevent abuse and protection of the prescribing physician from criminal prosecution would be a very humane and sensible thing to do.

Life is a denial of death and most of us would rather not think about such things, but to see a wonderful, dignified human being in his last days in pain, incontinent, nauseated, unable to eat or drink, is not consistent with our values. We should not deny these people the choice of ending their lives with dignity when they see fit.

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